

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: . . . )  
Sang Hoo Dong et al. . . )  
Serial No.: 09/915,437 . . . ) Group Art Unit: 2825  
Filed: July 26, 2001 . . . )  
FOR: METHOD OF LOGIC CIRCUIT . . . ) Examiner: Binh C. Tat  
SYNTHESIS AND DESIGN . . . ) Confirmation No.: 7370  
USING A DYNAMIC CIRCUIT . . . )  
LIBRARY . . . )

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed January 26, 2007, in the above-identified application, and is filed within the one-month shortened statutory period for response set in the Office Action.

The Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-12, for prosecution in this application with traverse.

Although the Office Action requires an election between Group I (claims 1-12) and Group II (claims 13-18), the basis for the restriction requirement is not clear from the Office Action. The Office Action refers to "distinct species" but fails to state a proper basis for requiring an election between species of an invention. In particular, the Office Action fails to identify the species to which the claims are to be restricted, and fails to explain why the species

1 are independent or distinct. See M.P.E.P. §809.02(a) and ¶8.01 regarding the form of a  
2 restriction requirement between species.

3 In fact, the two groups set out in the Office Action are not different species, that is,  
4 different embodiments of the invention that could fall within the scope of a generic claim. The  
5 claims in Group I, claims 1-12, are standard form method claims directed to either a circuit  
6 design method employing a logic synthesis step or to a method of synthesizing a logic circuit.  
7 The claims in Group II, claims 13-18, are improvement-type claims directed to a circuit design  
8 method utilizing a logic synthesis tool. These claims are all related by the logic synthesis block  
9 definition step set out in each independent claim, claims 1, 8, and 13, and by the constraint of  
10 logic synthesis to the defined logic synthesis block. Thus the claims are not directed to  
11 independent or distinct species of a generic invention.

12 It is further noted that there have previously been four different Office Actions in this  
13 application on essentially this same set of claims 1-18. It is unclear why a restriction requirement  
14 is being raised at this late point in the examination process.

15 Because the restriction requirement is not properly formed and because the claims are, in  
16 any event, not directed to independent or distinct species, the Applicants respectfully request that  
17 the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and request further action on the merits of the  
18 application.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 14, 2007

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